المجلس الإسلامي
Islamic Council

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THE TWO FACES OF GORBACHOV

The Islamic Council has strongly condemned the barbarity of Russian troops in Azerbaijan and deeply regretted the consequent loss of life. The Council said that the Muslims of the Soviet Union were only pursuing their legitimate right to regain their own culture and keep their ethnic identity, and Gorbachov's campaign of brutal suppression and the indiscriminate gunfire on unarmed civilians was inexcusable on any grounds.

The Islamic Council noted that the tragedy being enacted in Azerbaijan has unmasked the face of double standards. The Russian President has dealt very differently with the Muslims of Azerbaijan and the nationalists of the Baltics. The latter won a visit by Gorbachov himself, and dialogue, rather than a visit by Russian tanks and troops. Also, international reaction has been different. Those who were loudest in their protests over the crack down in Tienman Square now show their 'understanding' for the use of excessive and widespread firepower, and President Bush says Gorbachov has done 'a remarkable job' in handling the unrest. Many Muslims mourning their dead will not agree.

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